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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council demands Bosnian Serbs respect civilian rights and immediately release males forcibly removed from Srebrenica; demands unimpeded access for humanitarian agencies and freedom of movement for UNPROFOR.

* Secretary-General views negotiation as main tool for achieving peaceful settlement in Bosnia; appoints Thorvald Stoltenberg Special Envoy to open negotiations with parties.

* Refugee situation in Tuzla worsens; ten die from dehydration.

* Secretary-General arrives in Angola for 3-day working visit; meets with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to assess current status of Angolan peace process.

* Special Committee on Decolonization calls for peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute over Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

* Economic and Social Council told field coordination by United Nations agencies increases their effectiveness.

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The Security Council today expressed deep concern over the forced relocation, grave mistreatment and killing of civilians by Bosnian Serbs in the safe area of Srebrenica. It demanded that the rights of those civilians be fully respected and that some 4,000 men and boys, reportedly removed by force from Srebrenica, be released immediately, in conformity with international law.

In a statement read out by its President, Gerardo Martinez Blanco (Honduras), the Council further demanded that the Bosnian Serbs allow unimpeded access by international humanitarian organizations to Srebrenica's civilian population and cooperate with procedures to determine those who wished to leave. They should be allowed to do so in an orderly and safe manner.

The Council demanded that both sides allow unimpeded movement of humanitarian relief and cooperate with efforts by international organizations and

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concerned governments to provide food, medicine and housing to the displaced. The Council also demanded that they respect fully the safety of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel and ensure their complete freedom of movement. The Council again called on the Bosnian Serbs to release unharmed, immediately and unconditionally, all detained peace-keepers.

Condemning the unacceptable practice of ethnic cleansing, the Council reaffirmed that those who had committed or ordered those acts would be held individually responsible.

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The Secretary-General views negotiation as the main tool for reaching a peaceful settlement to the problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. In a letter to the Security Council, the Secretary-General said he had appointed Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia (ICFY), as his Special Envoy to assess the situation in Bosnia and to open negotiations with the parties there.

Mr. Stoltenberg will be joined today by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and Carl Bildt, the other co-chairman of ICFY. They will fly to Belgrade to meet with the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Stoltenberg will underline the importance of the humane treatment of refugees and displaced persons and access for humanitarian convoys, the spokesman continued. He will demand the release of detained UNPROFOR personnel, the restoration of UNPROFOR's freedom of movement and the orderly redeployment of the Dutch battalion with all their weapons and vehicles. Mr. Stoltenberg will then go to Pale for discussions with Bosnian Serb leaders.

Meanwhile, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a statement released today, said it would not deal with Mr. Akashi or Mr. Stoltenberg. However, it would cooperate with the United Nations and meet with other envoys of the Secretary-General.

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The situation of the displaced persons at the UNPROFOR airforce base at Tuzla was very grave, a United Nations spokesman said today, as the forced relocation of civilians in the safe area of Srebrenica by Bosnian Serbs continued. An estimated 4,000 people were inside the airbase and another 9,000 people were crowded outside. The United Nations had set up tents and were providing medical care for the many refugees who were exhausted, dehydrated and ill.

Ten displaced persons had died, probably from dehydration and two others had committed suicide, the spokesman continued. Some refugees had formed groups

of 100 to 200 and had become violent. Additional UNPROFOR troops had been sent to Tuzla to help the refugees and control the situation.

The UNHCR had already identified centres in Tuzla, with facilities to handle the refugees, but the Bosnian Government had insisted on sending them to the airport, according to Soren Jessen-Petersen, the Director of the UNHCR in New York. The UNHCR hoped to move some of the refugees to the collection centres within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, UNPROFOR troops had withdrawn from the last observation post they were manning in the Srebrenica enclave. Bosnian Serb forces were now holding 55 Dutch peace-keepers, although UNPROFOR had been in touch with them and did not believe their safety was threatened. The safe area of Zepa in eastern Bosnia was reportedly under attack.

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, Sadako Ogata, has strongly condemned Bosnian Serb acts against the Srebrenica civilians. It was one of the most blatant examples of ethnically motivated forced displacement seen yet in the war.

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The Secretary-General has arrived in Angola for a three-day working visit. He met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to assess the current status of the Angolan peace process and later addressed the staff of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

The Secretary-General attended a special session of the Joint Commission to review the latest developments in the application of the peace agreements. The Joint Commission is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and is presided over by Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye. In the evening, the Secretary-General was guest of honour at a dinner at the Presidential Palace.

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The Special Committee on Decolonization has approved a draft resolution calling for the peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Acting without a vote, the Committee yesterday approved the draft by which the General Assembly would ask Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations on the issue as soon as possible.

The Foreign Minister of Argentina, Guido di Tella, said his country was an economic ally of the United Kingdom with whom it shared many aims, and their disagreement over the Malvinas sovereignty would not prevent dialogue. However, using the right to self-determination to solve the issue would legitimize the past aggressive and forceful British acquisition of the Malvinas. He said Argentina would respect the way of the life of the islanders and would not pose a threat to anyone.

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A petitioner from the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands, said that Argentina must understand that the islanders did not look on Britain as an oppressive colonial power but as a benevolent motherland ready to let them stand on their own two feet.

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Field coordination by various United Nations agencies had increased their effectiveness, the Economic and Social Council was told in Geneva. The Council has been holding discussions this week on United Nations operational activities for international development cooperation.

Thelma Awori, the United Nations Development Programme Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe, said intensified coordination had been used to confront such problems as drought. Such coordination was easier to accomplish when a government was firmly established and respected. Andrew Arkutu, the United Nations Population Fund Country Director for Nigeria, said most countries accepted the concept of the country strategy and its value in aid management.

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